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The Week in Washington

Why Congress Doubts Wisdom Of Changing Contract System

There's a new effort in Congress to permit and encourage awarding defense and space contracts in areas of high unemployment, even though manufacturers elsewhere submit lower bids.

The effort, being led by Sen. Hubert Humphrey, probably won't get far with his fellow lawmakers. But his proposals, and the argument they inspired in the Senate last week, point up how delicate — and controversial — is the issue of the awarding of Government contracts.



Science Foundation request of \$589,000,000 to \$326,000,000. The bill now goes to the Senate.

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Relaxing Agent: Rep. Mendel Rivers, South Carolina Democrat, is pushing a bill to permit agents of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to retire with pay after 10 years or, if their duty is unusually hazardous, after as few as five years. FBI agents on hazardous duty now get quick-retirement privileges, Mr. Rivers said. The CIA bill is pending before the House Armed Services Committee.